United Nations S/2008/49

Security Council

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The Security Council,

Reaffirming all its previous resolutions and statements pertaining to the situation between Ethiopia and Eritrea (hereinafter referred to as "the parties") and the requirements contained therein, including in particular resolutions 1320 (2000), 1430 (2002), 1466 (2003), 1640 (2005), 1681 (2006), 1710 (2006), 1741 (2007) and 1767 (2007),

Stressing once again its unwavering commitment to the peace process, and to the full and expeditious implementation of the Algiers Agreements as a basis for peaceful and cooperative relations between the parties, and *recalling* paragraph 15 of article 4 of the Peace Agreement of 12 December 2000 (S/2000/1183), in which the parties agreed that the delimitation and demarcation determinations of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC) shall be final and binding,

Expressing its support for the efforts of the EEBC, *welcoming* once again the acceptance by the parties of the delimitation decision of the EEBC of 3 April 2002, *recalling* that it acknowledged the Statement of the EEBC of 27 November 2006, and *taking note* of the 26th EEBC Report annexed to the Secretary-General 's report of 23 January 2008 (S/2008/40),

Stressing that the physical demarcation of the border between Eritrea and Ethiopia would support a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the dispute between the parties and normalization of their relations,

Expressing its deep concern about the continuing dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea, and over the continued tense and potentially unstable security situation in the Temporary Security Zone (TSZ) and the adjacent areas, and stressing that it is the primary responsibility of the Parties to end this situation by fulfilling their obligations expeditiously under the Algiers Agreements,

Reaffirming once again the integrity of the TSZ as provided for in paragraphs 12-14 of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities of 18 June 2000 (S/2000/601), and *recalling* the objectives of its establishment, in particular to create conditions conducive to a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the conflict, and the commitment of the parties to respect the TSZ,

Underlining that the Security Council remains committed to its role, in particular helping to ensure that the parties respect the commitments they made in the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities of 18 June 2000 (S/2000/601) and the

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Peace Agreement of 12 December 2000 (S/2000/1183), to which the United Nations was one of the witnesses,

Commending the efforts made by the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) and its military and civilian personnel to accomplish its duties, despite the difficult circumstances,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of 23 January 2008 (S/2008/40),

1. *Decides* to extend the mandate of UNMEE for a period of six months, until 31 July 2008;

2. *Reiterates its call* that the parties show maximum restraint and refrain from any threat or use of force against each other, avoid provocative military activities, and put an end to the exchange of hostile statements;

3. *Reiterates its call* on Eritrea and Ethiopia to maintain their full commitment to the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities, and to de-escalate the situation, including by returning to the 16 December 2004 levels of deployment;

4. *Underlines* that Eritrea and Ethiopia bear the primary responsibility for achieving a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the border dispute and normalizing their relations, *demands* that they take immediately concrete steps in order to complete the process launched by the Peace Agreement of 12 December 2000 (S/2000/1183) by enabling physical demarcation of the border, and *urges* them to normalize their relations;

5. *Reiterates its demands* on Eritrea to withdraw immediately all troops and heavy military equipment from the TSZ, to provide UNMEE with the necessary access, assistance, support and protection required for the performance of its duties and to remove immediately and without preconditions the restrictions on UNMEE;

6. *Reiterates its call* on Ethiopia to reduce the number of military forces in the areas adjacent to the TSZ;

7. *Notes with grave concern* UNMEE's critical fuel levels, *demands* that the government of Eritrea resumes immediately fuel shipments to UNMEE or allows UNMEE to import fuel without restrictions, and requests the Secretary General to keep the Security Council informed of developments;

8. *Reiterates its call* on both parties to fully cooperate with UNMEE with a view to urgently reactivating the work of the Military Coordination Commission which remains a unique forum to discuss pressing military and security issues;

9. *Strongly supports* the ongoing efforts by the Secretary-General and the international community to engage with Eritrea and Ethiopia to help them to normalize their relations, to promote stability between the parties, and to lay the foundation for a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the dispute, and *urges* the parties to accept the Secretary General's good offices;

10. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts by the Secretary-General towards the earliest appointment of a Special Representative;

11. *Expresses its willingness* to reconsider any changes to the UNMEE mandate in light of subsequent developments in the implementation of the Algiers Agreements;

12. *Calls* on Member States to provide contributions to the Trust Fund, established pursuant to Resolution 1177 (1998) and referred to in Article 4 (17) of the Peace Agreement of 12 December 2000;

13. *Expresses* its deep appreciation for the contribution and dedication of the troop-contributing countries to the work of UNMEE;

14. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.